



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 563 of 09th June 2019

To: All Surveyors/Auditors

Applicable to flag: All Flags

Ballast Water Management – MEPC 74

Reference: The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 74th session

Ballast Water Management

The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held its 74th session from May 13 to 17, 2019. This Brief provides an overview of the more significant issues progressed at this session. A full report of the meeting will be included in the next ABS International Regulatory News Update.

Appendix I of the BWM Convention (Form of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate)

The Committee agreed to an updated unified interpretation (UI) of appendix I (Form of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate) of the BWM Convention. Since MEPC 74 is the last session of the Committee before the BWMS Code's effective date is 13 October the 2019 the UI will also become applicable on 13 October 2019. Considering that the 2016 Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8), adopted by resolution MEPC.279(70), will be revoked when the BWMS Code takes effect, the references to the Guidelines (G8) in the original UI have been replaced with references to the BWMS Code in the updated UI.

The Committee approved amendments to the form of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate. The amendments add a selection of “other approach in accordance with regulation” in addition to the current selections (in accordance with regulation D-1, or D-2, or D-4) under “The principal Ballast Water Management method(s) employed on this ship is/are” with a view to adoption by MEPC 75.

Revised Data Gathering Analysis Plan for the experience-building phase

The Committee approved a revision of the circular for data gathering and analysis plan for the experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention (BWM.2/Circ.67/Rev.1).

Amendments to Regulation E-1 of the BWM Convention (including BWM System Commissioning Test)

The Committee approved amendments to regulations E-1.1 and E-1.5 of the BWM Convention – survey and certification requirements for ballast water management adding confirmation that a commissioning test has been conducted to validate the installation of any BWMS to demonstrate

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that its mechanical, physical, chemical and biological processes are working properly, taking into account guidelines developed by the Organization.

BWMS Commissioning Testing

The Committee endorsed the view that commissioning testing should begin as soon as possible in accordance with BWM.2/Circ.70. As an interim measure, the Committee urges Administrations to provide the Recognized Organizations, which act on their behalf, with written and clear instructions in relation to the conduct of indicative analysis testing at the time of their commissioning on ships that fly their flag; including what actions are to be taken in the event of testing demonstrating non-compliance.

BW Management System Approvals

Basic Approval was granted by the Committee for CleanBallast® - Ocean Barrier System submitted by Norway. CleanBallast – Ocean Barrier System treats ballast water by filtration and in-line electrochlorination during uptake and neutralization with sodium thiosulfate at discharge.

Basic Approval was granted by the Committee for the FlowSafe Ballast Water Management System submitted by Cyprus. FlowSafe uses a SeaWater Conditioning Unit (SWCU or Trident Unit) and a side-stream electrochlorination unit during uptake and, as needed, sodium thiosulfate for neutralization during discharge.

Final Approval was granted by the Committee for the Envirocleanse inTank™ (Bulk Chemical Variation) submitted by Norway. The Envirocleanse inTank™ Bulk Chemical Variation injects sodium hypochlorite as the Active Substance after uptake based on concentration-time (CT) treatment approach. During the voyage, in-tank recirculation is used to monitor residual oxidant levels and redoes as needed to achieve the minimum target CT and, prior to discharge, in-tank recirculation to check for residual oxidant levels and apply sodium thiosulfate to neutralize any remaining oxidant.

Final Approval was granted by the Committee for the MICROFADE II submitted by the Netherlands. MICROFADE II uses a filter and injection of sodium dichloroisocyanurate dihydrate (SDCC) as an Active Substance during uptake and sodium sulfite for neutralization during discharge.

Final Approval was extended by the Committee for the Purimar™ Ballast Water Management System submitted by the Republic of Korea on freshwater. The Purimar BWMS uses a filter and side-stream electrochlorination during uptake and sodium thiosulfate for neutralization during discharge.

Final Approval was not granted for JFE BallastAce® that makes use of NEO-CHLOR MARINE® submitted by Japan.

REFERENCES:

- MEPC 74

- ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

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